



December: Servant-Worker

Learning Target: I can bring joy and healing to others through service.

We serve others as Christ served us. We should learn to serve others by working actively to heal brokenness and bring joy and shalom. "As individuals, we are called to make a difference in the world, not just in private personal behavior. We are also called to the restoration task as communities of believers. As redeemed image bearers we should be making a difference in the culture" (Donovan Graham).

Learning about God and His creation in itself is an act of restoration – as is showing hope, love, joy, peace, healing, overcoming, etc. Each of us needs is called to look for ways to bring about change, to improve situations for people, to build community, and meet needs. Being an image bearer means having the ability and responsibility to discover, respond to, develop, use, and improve the world that God has placed us in. This is true for the student just as it is true for the construction worker, the scientist, the truck driver, the accountant, the teacher. God has given us the gifts of ideas, skills, materials, and awareness in order to make a difference in His world and to serve others as we seek restoration.

That's what we need to cultivate in our children and ourselves: the desire and ability to offer hope, healing, and restoration to this world and its people. We are to be Christ's salt and light. We can't minister to a hurting world by pretending sin doesn't exist and hiding in a make-believe world of purity and beauty untouched by sin. Being "salt and light" means our faith needs to be expressed in our work. We all can help to heal brokenness and bring joy. Sometimes this will be a response to an injustice, and sometimes it will be doing good things just for the sake of doing them. Sometimes these things will be easy for us to do and sometimes they will really push us out of our comfort zone – and both are great experiences!

Verses to Read: ☐ Matthew 20:28; Matthew 25 ☐ Luke 12:35, 48b ☐ John 13:12-17 ☐ Acts 20:35 ☐ Ephesians 2:10 ☐ James 3:13 ☐ 1 John 3:16

Questions to talk about as a family: • Who are we supposed to help? Who is our neighbor? • Who could we serve this Christmas?

Family activities that serve others: • collect food for food bank • fill a box for Operation Christmas Child • Give hats, mittens, and coats to those in need • shovel for a neighbor

Throughline information adapted from the Tft Throughlines Devotional by Beacon Christian School in St. Catherines, Ontario. Family devotional links are from www.thrivingfamily.ca.